

2007 Exhibits and Events

The DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center features the following events, in addition to weekend wildlife films.

February 16 – 19

Great Backyard Bird Count

Help count the birds through the windows of the visitor center. How many species can you find?

March 1 - 31

24th Student Wildlife Art Exhibit

Iowa and Nebraska students in Kindergarten through twelfth grade, exhibit wildlife art. Ribbons will be awarded for outstanding entries.

April 1, Sunday

Ho! For the Goldmines

1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Take a make believe steamboat ride. See if you can complete the journey. Passport photo, children's games & crafts.

April 14 – June 1

Omaha Artist Inc., Spring Art Exhibit

A judged exhibit featuring nature and wildlife-oriented photography.

May 12, Saturday

International Migratory Bird Day

Celebrate the return of migratory birds to the Refuge. Bring your binoculars, bird book and curiosity. This event will include a variety of activities for all ages. Omaha Raptor Team will be here.

June 2, Saturday

DeSotoRefugeFest

An all-day family fun carp fishing tournament, with prizes, boat tours, canoe and kayak rides, and food concessions. The event is hosted at the South Gate Recreation Area of the Refuge.

September 2 – October 12

Pam Cates Art Display

Appealing and creative paintings depicting local wildlife and nature by local artist Pam Cates.

September 29, Saturday

National Public Lands Day

Join refuge staff and friends for the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance our public lands. Volunteer projects will include seed collecting, invasive plant removing, and trash collecting. For more information about National Public Lands Day, visit their website at: <http://www.npld.com/>

October 13 – November 16

Russ Duerksen Art Exhibit

Enjoy Russ Duerksen's artwork of the Midwest; then visit with him at the *Art of the Wild Show & Sale*. To view his artwork visit: www.russduerksenart.com/

October 7 - 13

National Wildlife Refuge Week

Explore the Refuge and it's wildlife through a variety of activities, from bird walks to Refuge tours.

November 17 – 18, Sat & Sun

Art of the Wild Show & Sale

This annual event features artwork, photography, carvings, and more from local artists.

November 21 – December 31

Gary Caldwell Photography Exhibit

Dazzling photographs depicting wildlife of the Missouri River Great Plains region by area photographer Gary Caldwell.

The Refuge also offers...

fishing, hunting, photography, mushroom gathering, environmental education programs, and nature trails including one that is wheel-chair accessible.

Our mission: "To preserve and restore indigenous biological communities, with emphasis on wetland and riverine flora and fauna, and to provide both cultural and natural history interpretations for environmental education; and wildlife-dependent recreation, where and when such uses are compatible with the primary purpose of the refuge."

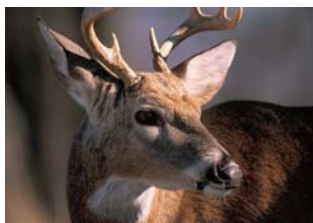
For more information:

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge
1434 E. 316th Lane
Missouri Valley, IA 51555
(712) 642-2772
<http://midwest.fws.gov/desoto>

In the month of January:

Walk nature trails after a snow and see the abundance of animal tracks.

White-tailed bucks begin to lose antlers.



Observe red-tailed hawks perched along highways.

Pileated woodpeckers drum to establish territories.

In the month of February:

National Wild Bird Feeding Month

Birdseed Cornbread Recipe

Prepare 1 pkg of Cornbread Mix as directed on pkg., except add an extra egg (egg shells too!), add 1 cup bird seed,, if mixture is too dry, add a little water, Bake as directed on pkg. Cool, cut into serving pieces, freeze in small freezer bags. Defrost & crumble into pieces on platform feeder. Can add: raisins, craisins, nuts, or defrosted frozen vegetables.

Chickadees begin to sing - the first bird song of the New Year

Male cardinals begin territorial singing

White-tail deer feed in groups this month



Weekend Wildlife Films January & February

Films shown at 12:00, 1:30 & 2:45 p.m.

January 6 & 7 - **Two Little Owls** - Everyday events and growth of two great horned owl chicks, as parents care for them. 20 minutes

January 13 & 14 - **Across the Sea of Grass** - Wildlife, history and beautiful photography of the Great Plains. 55 minutes

January 20 & 21 - **Watching Wildlife** - View ways to enjoy watching wildlife combined with beautiful photography. 30 minutes

January 27 & 28 - **It's a Hoot!** - "Why does an owl hoot?" Find out the answer to this question and learn about eagles and other birds of prey. 30 minutes

February 3 & 4 - **Fueling the Future: No Deposit, No Return** - The nation's growing waste problem! Learn about ways to change the "throw-away" ethic. 60 minutes

February 10 & 11 - **Audubon's Panther/Cougar Adventure** - Though strong and fierce, cougars are threatened in various parts of North America. Learn what can be done to protect this animal and their ever-shrinking natural habitat. 30 minutes

February 17 & 18 - **Walking with Ghosts** - Predator biologist Elizabeth Hofer has been tracking the relationship between the elusive lynx and its prey, the snowshoe hare, for 18 years. View never-before-seen footage of wild lynx in their natural habitat. 47 minutes

February 24 & 25 - **The Key to Duck ID** - Learn to identify common ducks and how to tell dabblers from divers. 16 minutes

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge 2007 Exhibit & Event Schedule